

Making a difference

Ensuring clean water for future generations:

- ✓ Make sure that your car is running in top performance- by fixing car leaks and emissions you can save gas and eliminate potential pollution. A single gallon of leaked oil has the potential to contaminate thousands of gallons of water!
- ✓ Be responsible for all your waste when camping, boating, or participating in any other outdoor activity.
- ✓ When you need to go to the local store consider walking or riding your bike. You can reduce air emissions and get exercise.
- ✓ Encourage awareness of pollution among friends and family because every individual together can create a big difference!
- ✓ Participate in pond, lake, and beach cleanups.
- ✓ Act responsibly with household chemicals and their disposal. Contact the Environmental Health & Safety Dept. for the next Hazardous Household Waste Collection date along with any other environmental concerns.

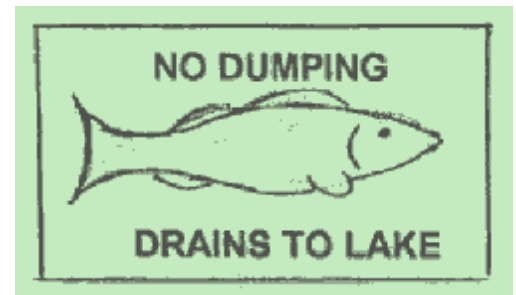


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stormwater pollution prevention

Did you know that ...

what you do impacts **YOUR**
environment?



ABOUT STORMWATER

When rain or snow falls it either soaks into the ground becoming groundwater, evaporates, or runs over the land surface. This flow is referred to as “runoff” or “stormwater.” This is the primary water source for numerous water sources including lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, and water supply reservoirs

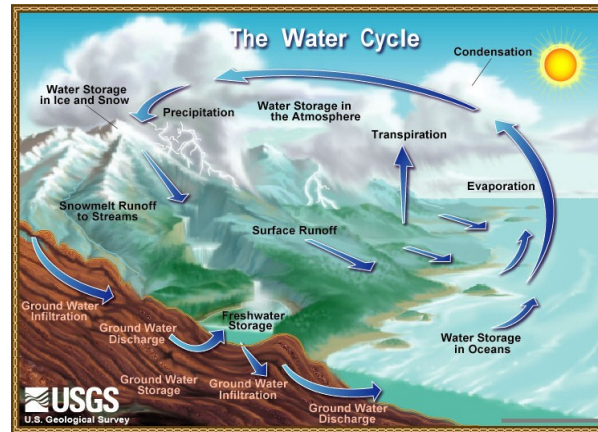
Typically, stormwater is filtered through vegetative surfaces (i.e. grass or other ground cover) that break down and trap pollutants. In contrast, when this water comes in contact with hard surfaces (buildings, roads, parking lots, etc.) stormwater becomes a transportation system for pollutants.



These impervious surfaces prevent natural filtration from occurring while speeding the rate and volume of the runoff. At the same time runoff increases the number of pollutants that eventually filter into the groundwater.

In Massachusetts, polluted stormwater runoff causes serious water-quality problems.

Currently there is substantial concern about the effect of stormwater runoff. In fact in 1997 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reported that pollution from all different sources, including stormwater pollution, is considered to be the largest source of contamination in the nation's waters.



“Water is the most important substance on earth. It’s the basis of life on our planet. It cycles through Earth’s various systems just like blood cycles through our bodies.”

AFFECTS OF GROUNDWATER

POLLUTION

Question: Do I play a role in this escalating problem?

Answer: YES!

Everyday items such as fertilizers used in residential lawns, pesticides, grit and salt from de-icing roadways, antifreeze and

oil dripped from cars, cigarette butts, and various additional litter items can find their way into our groundwater water supply through the process of runoff.

All of these small pollutants add up to create major environmental problems. This pollution has a detrimental effect on aquatic plant and animal life, it may close shellfish beds, and it also may decrease recreational activities such as swimming. Polluted runoffs create serious water quality problems.



If every individual makes a conscious effort to manage their waste while respecting the environment, the results will become clear. A collective effort will provide us with not only clean water, but also a large-scale improvement in our environment.